

## CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS

**Sequoia Center**

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**CCC TO DEDICATE BADGER GAP TRAIL**

After more than five years of work, the California Conservation Corps will join its partners in dedicating the 14-mile Badger Gap Trail on Saturday, May 10.

The trail is located 30 miles east of Bakersfield and ten miles west of Lake Isabella, between Highway 178 and Rancheria Road. The trail heads are near the Democrat Fire Station on Highway 178 and near the Oak Flat Lookout on the Rancheria Road side.

Sponsors of the work include California State Parks, the United States Forest Service, the Southern Sierra Fat Tire Association and the Bakersfield Trailblazers 4 WD Club.

Crews from CCC's Sequoia Center in Porterville -- 241 different corpsmembers in all -- devoted nearly 22,000 hours of work since September 1997 to constructing the new Badger Gap trail, and in some locations reconstructing portions of old trails. Four trails connect to the new trail: the Kern River Trail, Kern Canyon Trail, Delonegha Trail and Oak Flat Lookout Trail. The Badger Gap Trail now connects Oak Flat with Lake Isabella.

CCC Sequoia Center Director Betty Harris said the trail is ideal for a weekend outing.

"This is a beautiful trail which lends itself to biking, hiking, motorcycling, camping, picnicking and much more," she said. "It's also great for a nature walk, with its curving hillsides, wildflowers and spectacular views of the Kern River."

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Harris praised the corpsmembers who endured rain, sleet and snow to build the trail. "They worked very hard on it for a long time, through all the elements, so we can't be more pleased to celebrate its completion."

The public is invited to attend the trail opening ceremony, which will be held at 2 p.m. on May 10. Four-wheel drive vehicles will be available to transport those attending to the trailhead. Following the ceremony, the U.S. Forest Service will hold a barbecue.

The California Conservation Corps is a state agency hiring young men and women, ages 18 to 23, for a year of natural resource work and emergency response. Sixty corpsmembers are based at the CCC's Sequoia Center in Porterville.

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